

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

INR-10 PA-04 PRS-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /082 W

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O R 260737Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8098

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: MAURER RESIGNATION REPORTEDLY IMMINENT

1. MRS. MAURER TOLD WESTERN TENNIS PARTNER MARCH 25 THAT HER HUSBAND HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AS PRIME MINISTER THAT MORNING. STORY APPEARS CONFIRMED BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CORNELIU MANESCU WHO ANSWERED QUESTION AT GREEK RECEPTION SAME NIGHT WITH AFFIRMATIVE NOD AND DRY STATEMENT THAT TRUTH OF RESIGNATION WAS INDEED PROBABLE.

2. AS STORY HAS SPREAD, DIPLOMATIC SPECULATION HAS THROWN UP SUCH NAMES AS VERDET, NICULESCU-MIZIL, TROFIN AND BURTICA AS POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR WITH LATTER MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED DESPITE HIS COMPARATIVELY JUNIOR POSITION. BASIS FOR ALL THESE LATTER STORIES IS UNKNOWN BUT PROBABLY IS ONLY SPECULATION.

3. AS STORY HAS SPREAD, DIPLOMATIC SPECULATION HAS THROWN UP SUCH NAMES AS VERDET, NICULESCU-MIZIL, TROFIN AND BURTICA AS POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR WITH LATTER MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED DESPITE HIS COMPARATIVELY JUNIOR POSITION. BASIS FOR ALL THESE LATTER STORIES IS UNKNOWN BUT PROBABLY IS ONLY SPECULATION.

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3. OTHER CHANGES SEEM LIKELY FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAYS HE WAS TOLD BY MACOVESCU ON SUNDAY THAT CURRENT PLENUM MAY RESULT IN NUMBER OF PERSONNEL CHANGES. THIS SEEMS FURTHER INDICATED BY AGENDA OF PARTY PLENUM PUBLISHED MARCH 26 WHICH CONTAINS SUCH ITEMS AS "INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANS OF THE PARTY AND STATE CONCERNING THE CARRYING OUT OF POLICY OF PARTY CADRES" AND "SOME ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS." POLISH DCM ROKOCKI SAYS HE HAS HEARD SPECIFICALLY THAT A WOMAN WILL BE NAMED TO SECRETARIAT. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT SHARP ARGUMENTS OCCURRED DURING FIRST DAY OF PLENUM. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD RUMOR FROM ROMANIAN SOURCE THAT DUMITRU POPESCU WILL BE MOVED FROM HIS PRESENT POSITION.

4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM PRESS INTIMATION THAT ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS ARE ON AGENDA, MOST SOLID ELEMENT IN ABOVE SEEMS TO BE MAURER'S SUBMISSION OF RESIGNATION WITH OTHER STORIES MERE RUMORS THAT WILL REMAIN TO BE TESTED BY PLENUM-- AND PERHAPS GNA--RESULTS. WITHDRAWAL OF MAURER, THOUGH PARTLY DUE TO DECLINING HEALTH AND AGE, IS PROBABLY ALSO DUE TO HIS POLITICAL ESTRANGEMENT FROM CEAUSESCU. MAURER MAY BE GIVEN SOME HONORIFIC POSITION WITHOUT POWER ALTHOUGH ONE POSSIBLE INDICATION OF MORE COMPLETE LOSS OF STATUS IS FACT THAT MRS. MAURER REPORTEDLY APPEARED AT TENNIS COURT IN SOMEWHAT DILAPIDATED VOLGA RATHER THAN MAURER'S SECOND MERCEDES WHICH SHE NORMALLY USES.

BARNES

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